

Claims

1. Apparatus for displaying a video image of a scene in a travel path of a vehicle, comprising:

a video camera device and lens for imaging a field of view including said travel path, said field of view including out-of-path objects that are out of

5 said travel path as well as in-path objects that are in said travel path;

a video display device for displaying the imaged field of view; and

means for providing a reticle on said video display device for visually delineating an in-path portion of said field of view in which said in-path objects are displayed from an out-of-path portion of said field of view in which said

10 out-of-path objects are displayed.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the delineated in-path portion of the displayed field of view is conical or frustro-conical.

3. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the delineated in-path portion of the displayed field of view is conical or frustro-conical, and said reticle includes one or more stadia lines traversing said in-path portion for aiding estimation of an object's range from the vehicle.

4. The apparatus of Claim 3, wherein said stadia lines have a length that corresponds to a width of the vehicle.

5. The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein the delineated in-path portion of the displayed field of view is wider than the length of said stadia lines.

6. The apparatus of Claim 3, including a series of successively receding stadia lines in the delineated in-path portion of the displayed field of view corresponding to successively longer ranges from said vehicle.

7. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said means for providing a reticle comprises:

a reticle substrate disposed between said video camera device and said lens; and

5 a reticle array formed on said reticle substrate such that the imaged and displayed field of view includes an image of said reticle array, said reticle being defined by such image of such reticle array.

8. The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein:

said reticle substrate is optically transparent; and

5 said reticle array includes a conical or frustro-conical region of substantially un-attenuated light transmissivity corresponding to the in-path portion of the displayed field of view, and a region of perceptibly attenuated light transmissivity corresponding to the out-of-path portion of the displayed field of view.

9. The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein:

5 said reticle array defines a conical or frustro-conical region corresponding to the in-path portion of the displayed field of view, and includes one or more stadia lines traversing said conical or frustro-conical region for aiding estimation of an object's range from the vehicle.

10. The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said reticle substrate is a cover of said video camera device.